

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 1, line 20 with the following new paragraphs:

- ~~FIGS. 1A and 1B are~~ is a pattern drawings for an embodiments of the ~~outside~~ front outershell of the body armor of the present invention;

FIGS. 2A ~~and 2B are~~ is a pattern drawings for an embodiments of the ~~outside~~ back outershell of the body armor of the present invention;

FIGS. 3A and 3B are pattern drawings for embodiments of the ~~inside~~ front ballistic panel and back ballistic panel of the body armor of the present invention;--

Please insert the following paragraph on page 1 after the paragraph beginning "FIG. 5 is an illustration. . .":

- FIG. 5A is a perspective view of the embodiment of FIG. 5 on a user, with the front outershell removed; - -

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 2, line 4 with the following new paragraphs:

- ~~FIG. 8 is a photograph~~ an illustration of the front view of one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 8A ~~is a photograph~~ an illustration of a fragmentary view of FIG. 8 showing the hidden zipper and the opening for stabilizer tab pull through;

FIG. 9 ~~is a photograph~~ an illustration of the back view of one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 9A ~~is a photograph~~ an illustration of the fragmentary view of Fig. 9 showing the hidden zipper;

FIG. 10 ~~is a photograph~~ an illustration of the front view of one embodiment of the present invention showing the stabilizer tab when the ~~outer cover~~ outershell is closed and the tab is threaded through;

~~FIG. 10a is a photograph of the fragmentary view of Fig. 10 showing a cut-away view of the bottom of the panel with the loop that goes around button of the trouser to hold panel in place;--~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 16 with the following new paragraph:

--FIGS. 12A and 12B are ~~photographs~~ illustrations showing the front and back respectively of one embodiment of the present invention.

Please insert the following paragraphs on page 2, after the paragraph beginning "The present invention is described in relation to its use as a body armor having a front protective section. . .":

--Referring to FIGS. 1A to 4B, various embodiments of outershells and ballistic panels are shown. Specifically, FIG. 1A depicts an embodiment of a front outershell 2. The front outershell includes a right front outershell shoulder area 3, which is on the right shoulder of a user when worn, and a left front outershell shoulder area 4. Figure 2A depicts an embodiment of a rear outershell 5. The rear outershell 5 includes a right rear outershell shoulder area 6 and a left rear outershell shoulder area 7. Each of these outershells 2, 5 is configured to enable ballistic material or panels to be inserted within the outershells 2, 5. Figure 4A depicts alternative embodiments of a rear outershell 35 that includes right rear outershell shoulder area 36 and a left rear outershell shoulder area 37. Figure 4B depicts a further embodiment of a rear outershell 45 that includes right rear outershell shoulder area 46 and a left rear outershell shoulder area 47.

Referring to FIGS. 3A and 3B, an embodiment of a front ballistic panel 15 includes a right shoulder region 23 and a left shoulder region 24. Likewise, an embodiment of a rear ballistic panel 25 includes a right shoulder region 26 and a left shoulder region 27.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 26 with the following new paragraph:

- - In one embodiment of the present invention, the shoulder straps 10 are concealed and include complete adjustability within the outer shell shoulder. ~~In another embodiment, the~~

~~adjustability of shoulder straps 10 are hidden within the outer shell shoulder.~~ FIGS. 5, 5A and 6 are illustrations of this embodiment. FIG. 6 shows that the shoulder strap 10 is indirectly attached to ballistic panel 15 by stitching 12 through ballistic panel 15 and ~~shoulder strap 10~~ suspension tabs 14A and 14B. The suspension tabs 14A and 14B are stitched to the ballistic panel 15 at a shoulder region of the ballistic panel (e.g., right shoulder region 23 and left shoulder region 24). The suspension tabs 14A and 14B may be one portion of a hook and loop fastener (i.e., the hook portion). The shoulder strap 10 may include the mating portion of the suspension tabs (i.e., the loop portion). The shoulder strap 10 is sandwiched between the suspension tabs 14A and 14B, providing the indirect attachment to the ballistic panel 15 and the adjustability. To adjust the shoulder strap 10 to a particular user, the user may cut the shoulder strap 10 to length, and then sandwich the proper length shoulder strap between the suspension tabs 14A and 14B. As such, the ballistic panel 15 is substantially prevented from shifting during wear and extreme conditions, while substantially eliminating the common problem of rolling and sagging, which is typically found in soft, flexible vests. FIG. 5 and 6 also illustrates that the suspension tabs 14A and 14B and the shoulder strap 10 is under outershell fabric 20. The shoulder strap 10 and outershell fabric 20 may lie in different positions, as shown by the dotted lines of FIG. 6. The shoulder strap 10 may be a neoprene loop loop system or elastic removable straps. FIG. 5A shows an embodiment of the present invention on a user 100, with the front outershell 2 removed for clarity. FIG. 7 is an alternative embodiments where shoulder strap 10 is concealed by sandwiching the shoulder strap 10 between top layer 20 and middle layer of the outer shell 22. - -

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 10 with the following new paragraph:

- - Referring to FIGS. 8-11C, in~~In~~ a further embodiment of the present invention, a stabilizer tab 30 is directly sewn to the ballistic panel so as to stabilize the ballistic panel against the body. FIGS. 8 and 8A show an embodiment for the opening 60 in front outershell 62 for stabilizer tab 30 to pull through. FIG. 10 shows another view where stabilizer tab 30, ~~when outer cover is closed and~~ tab 30 is threaded through the front outer shell 62. In a further embodiment, FIGS. 11A-C show direct attachment of stabilizer tab 30 to the ballistics.